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PATENT
0425-0837P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Kaoru MURATA et al.	CONF.:	5554
SERIAL NO:	09/831,496	GROUP:	1723
FILED:	May 10, 2001	EXAMINER:	THERKORN
FOR:	DIFFUSION PROMOTING DEVICE FOR LOW FLOW VELOCITY GRADIENT HIGH PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY		

proposed **AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DRAFT

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 15, without prejudice.

Amend claims 2, 8, 10, and 11, so that claims 2, 8-13, and 16-18 read as follows:

2. (thrice amended) A method for improving a detection sensitivity of a target component, which comprises providing the diffusion promoting device just before a separation column in a high performance liquid chromatographic apparatus having a flow velocity gradient of 250 microliters per minute or less, wherein said diffusion promoting device comprises a solvent inlet tube and a

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